



Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Location: Online, via Zoom
Meeting ID: 963 4641 4648

Attendees: Kelly Lynema, Juli Brazille, Scott Lever, Sue Doctrow, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Greg Christiana

Guests: Len Diggins, Michael Brownstein, Don Seltzer, Beth Melofchik

Minutes

1. Approve May minutes
The minutes from May 14, 2020 were unanimously approved.
2. Formal confirmation of returning members
Term expirations of current members and the process for continuing with the Standing Committee was discussed. Scott Lever and Greg Christiana's membership expires this summer; they are both intending to remain for another term. Sue Doctrow, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, and Juli Brazille's terms expire in 2021. Kelly Lynema's expires in 2022. The Standing Committee currently has three vacancies.

Juli stated that if members intend to remain on the committee after their term expires, they are welcome to do so. Members who wish to stand down should notify the committee so the vacancy can be announced on the Town website and recruitment efforts can commence.

Kelly will update membership list on the Town website.

3. Update: Task Groups
No updates were received this month.
4. Update: Budget
The budget for FY2020 closes on June 30. Juli indicated that it seemed that anyone who had expenses has submitted them. Due to the shutdown, we spent less than our usual amount for the past fiscal year. We will receive our regular committee allowance of \$3,000 for 2021.
5. Discussion: Recruiting
A description of the Standing Committee and committee vacancies is on the Town's website. The Standing Committee needs to review and update the description to include our vision, what we view as our mission, and what the job requirements and responsibilities are of being on the Standing Committee.

The current description states:

The Standing Committee is seeking residents for three-year terms who are interested in the broad mission of Envision Arlington and actively supporting its various task groups and committees. The Standing Committee reports to Town Meeting on the progress of the committees and will be focusing the next few years on increasing public engagement around the Town Goals (which are statements of our values) and how to update them over time. Interested residents can email a statement of interest to envision@town.arlington.ma.us. More information about Envision Arlington and a detailed description of duties and expectations is available at arlingtonma.gov/envision

The group discussed ways that this description should be updated. Juli will update the description to include information about Town Day, the Town Survey, and other regular efforts the Standing Committee engages in, and will emphasize the need for people interested in planning and organizing Zoom events to help volunteers connect with committees virtually this fall; she will share a draft with the committee for review.

Scott suggested reaching out to new Town Meeting Members to see if they're interested as well. Len has an email list for TMMs, so he can share it with the group so we can populate it with the newly elected members.

A related conversation was held about organizing a virtual volunteer fair this fall, as Envision Arlington has a history of focus on volunteerism and fostering volunteerism in Town. The event could feature Town and non-town committees and organization, be held on Zoom with sessions and breakout sessions so participants could sign up to hear from specific groups. Envision Arlington could offer this to Town committees with open positions and organizations in need of volunteers. We could put out the word to our task groups so they can get other organizations interested. Len and Kelly indicated interest in helping support this effort, but need others from the Standing Committee to lead the effort.

Len asked about the Governance Task Group and whether it could and should be made more formal. There was interest in getting more organization to the group. Len will do some research to develop a description, identify how much time it would take for the group to be effective, and frequency of meetings.

Scott introduced guests Michael Brownstein, who has applied to become a Standing Committee member as a Superintendent appointee. He is going through the process of getting nominated by Kathy and through the School Committee. Michael might be interested in helping restart the education task group.

Michael works with school districts to think about how communities can create the schools that they want. He also has a daughter at Thompson, is familiar with the challenge of parenting and teaching during COVID, and is interested in bringing that conversation more broadly to the town.

6. Discussion: Standing Cmte role and leadership needs

- Task Group liaisons

It was discussed whether the members of the Standing Committee should be pulled up from Envision Arlington's various task groups. Participants agreed that they would like to have better connections to task groups, but by making participation in a task group a requirement of serving on the Standing

Committee we would then be asking them to serve on two committees. The Standing Committee needs to be more closely informed/aligned on what the task groups are doing.

The group decided to commit to reaching out to each task group to start the conversation. Each member will contact a chair/co-chair and set up a short conversation: what's going on with their task group/committee, what would help them feel more connected to Envision Arlington, what's coming up in the fall.

- Sue will reach out to the Reservoir Committee and Sustainable Arlington (Len will help with Sustainable Arlington as well)
- Greg will reach out to Fiscal Resources Task Group and Diversity Task Group
- Elisabeth will reach out to the Spy Pond Committee
- Juli and Len will work on Governance Task Group with precinct meeting volunteers
- Scott will work with Michael Brownstein on Education Task Group
- Roles of Standing Committee members
Standing Committee members voted unanimously to establish Scott Lever and Greg Christiana as interim co-chairs of Envision Arlington for the next year, or until a permanent chair/co-chairs can be approved, whichever is shorter.

Sue Doctrow will serve in a publicity role, communicating between task groups and Joan Roman. Elisabeth will serve as treasurer. Juli will remain on the committee as a member, just not as chair.

7. New Business

- Next Year's Town Survey
Next year's theme is beginning to take a focus on people and human services:
 - Juli mentioned that The Human Rights Commission is interested in developing questions for next year's survey.
 - Seniors and Disability Commission as well
 - Might also be a time for schools to submit their questions, which would be timely if the Education Task Group is restarting.
- Website updates
Greg asked about the member list on the Envision Arlington website. Kelly will work with Joan to update, noting that the list on the side of the page is the Steering/Advisory Committee, not the Standing Committee members. Len will serve as the liaison from the Select Board, pending the results of the recount. Juli will follow up with others on the list to verify membership.
- Next meeting
Scott will put out a poll for the Standing Committee's next meeting. The group decided that holding a summer meeting would be necessary given the changes that are taking place.
- Guest comments:
Don Seltzer noted that he was using this meeting as a test case to practice different methods for recording zoom meetings. He's also interested in learning more about Envision Arlington and task groups. Beth Melofchick said she

listened in because she's interested in how the group works. Michael Brownstein said he enjoyed the thoughtfulness of our process, best way to organize and make sure all are here.

Upcoming Meetings

Planned dates: Jun 22, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9
One or two meeting to be added in July and/or August.